

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to any of the canceled subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Attached to the Office Action was an Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary Form which indicated that the Examiner discussed "[c]laim 13" and the "112, second paragraph [rejection]" with the undersigned representative on April 13, 2005. The Examiner's comments in part II of the Form ("SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW . . ."), are accurate. Moreover, the undersigned representative requested the Examiner to place the rejection in writing so that applicants could fully consider the basis for the Examiner's rejection.

Turning now to the merits of the Office Action, applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has stated that "[c]laims 1-3, 7, 9, 12 and 21-24 [have been] allowed." OFFICE ACTION at 3; *see also* OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY.

Claim 13 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. OFFICE ACTION at 2-3. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution in the present application and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's

rejection, claim 13 has been hereby been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In view of the above, this rejection is thus rendered moot and withdrawal of such rejection is thus respectfully requested.

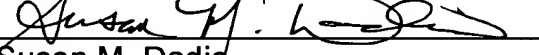
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment and Reply or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P.

Date: June 23, 2005

By:   
Susan M. Dadio  
Registration No. 40,373

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620